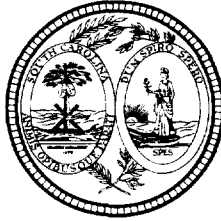


COMMISSIONERS
WILLIAM "BILL" SAUNDERS, 1ST DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN
H. CLAY CARRUTH, JR., 5TH DISTRICT
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GARY E. WALSH
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The Public Service Commission
State of South Carolina

PO Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211
Koger Executive Center
101 Executive Center Dr.
Columbia, SC 29210
www.psc.state.sc.us

April 20, 2001

RECEIVED

APR 25 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

SENT VIA REGULAR MAIL

Magalie Roman Salis, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Suite TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Petition of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina for
Delegation of Authority Pertaining to NXX Code Conservation
Measures

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed for filing in the above matter please find one original and six copies of the petition of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina for Delegation of Authority pertaining to NXX Code Conservation Measures. Kindly stamp one copy and return it to us in the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. David Butler".

F. David Butler
General Counsel

FDB/hha
Enclosures

cc: Attached Service List (w/enc.)

State of South Carolina
F. David Butler
075

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

RECEIVED

APR 25 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

In the Matter of:)	
)	
Public Service Commission of South Carolina)	File No. _____
Petition for Delegation of Authority)	
Pertaining to NXX Code Conservation Measures)	
)	
and)	
)	
Number Resource Optimization)	CC Docket No. 99-200

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
PETITION FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO
IMPLEMENT NUMBER CONSERVATION MEASURES**

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission") March 31, 2000 *Number Resource Optimization First Report and Order* ("Order")¹ the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("PSCSC") hereby seeks delegated authority to implement mandatory thousands-block pooling in the state of South Carolina. The PSCSC specifically requests Thousands Block Number Pooling for the Charleston-North Charleston and the Columbia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's). In addition, the PSCSC requests authority to order sequential number assignment to minimize thousand block contamination as well as authority to implement NXX code rationing procedures following area code relief to prevent a surge in demand for codes. Finally, in order to implement pooling conservation measures, PSCSC requests authority to reclaim Thousands-Block Numbers which are unused and which have a small percentage of contamination within a given Thousand-Block of Numbers. In lieu of the requested authority, or due to the selection of a national Pooling Administrator, the PSCSC requests that the North Charleston – Charleston and Columbia MSAs be included in the initial round of national pooling.

¹Numbering Resource Optimization, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 15 FCC Rcd 7574 (2000)

In its March 31, 2001, the Commission directed that those state commissions seeking thousands block number pooling authority demonstrate that “ 1) a number plan area (NPA) in its state is jeopardy; 2) the NPA is question has a remaining life of at least a year; and 3) the NPA is in one of the largest 100 MSAs, or alternatively, the majority of wireline carriers in the NPA are LNP-capable.” *Id.* at Paragraph 170. In addition, the Commission recognized that “special circumstances” may exist in which pooling would be authorized “upon a satisfactory showing by the state commission of such circumstances”. *Id.* Finally, in the case of pooling in more that one MSA, the Commission has stated that pooling in a second MSA is to be implemented “only after having implemented pooling in the initial MSA and after allowing carriers sufficient time to undertake necessary steps to accommodate thousands-block number pooling, such as modifying databases and upgrading switch software.” *Id.* The PSCSC believes that it meets the three criteria for this additional authority or alternatively, qualifies based on special circumstances. Further, the PSCSC requests a waiver of the requirement that pooling in a second MSA is to be implemented “only after having implemented pooling in the initial MSA and after allowing carriers sufficient time to undertake steps to accommodate thousands-block number pooling, such as modifying databases and upgrading switch software” *First Report and Order, supra at Paragraph 170.*

BACKGROUND

On February 22, 2001, NeuStar, Inc. filed informal requests for approval of NPA Relief Plan for the 803 area and 843 area (See Docket No. 2001-76-C). These filings contain requests for approval of the Telecommunication Industry in South Carolina area code relief plan in the 803 and 843 areas. The plan, which reflects the consensus of the Telecommunication Industry, recommends that the Commission approve an all-services distributed overlay plan for the 803 and 843 Numbering Plan Areas (NPAs). The industry submits that absent NPA relief, the supply of central office codes (CO or NXX codes) will exhaust during the second quarter of 2003. Also, the industry recommended approval of its 17-month implementation schedule. Under the industry implementation schedule, permissive 10-digit dialing in both NPAs is scheduled to commence on April 1, 2002 and mandatory digit dialing is scheduled to commence on October 1, 2002. The 843 NPA was implemented by way of a split of the 803 on March 22, 1998. After an informal presentation by NeuStar

concerning various relief plan including the all service overlay proposal, the PSCSC delayed any decision on the requests filed by NeuStar on behalf of Telecommunications Industry and found that a Petition should be filed with the Commission so that number conservation measures could be implemented to minimize public inconvenience and confusion.

SOUTH CAROLINA MEETS THE REQUIRED CRITERIA FOR AUTHORITY

The NPAs in the North Charleston – Charleston and in the Columbia MSAs are in jeopardy. Area Code relief for the 843 NPA, a geographic split with from the current 803 code, was completed on March 22, 1998. Forecasts for both the 803 and 843 NPAs indicate that the codes in both the NPAs are expected to exhaust during the first quarter of 2003. If the PSCSC does not proceed with the implementation schedule proposed by the industry, code rationing may be required or is not allowed to implement number conservation measures, then the central office codes may become exhausted before any area code relief plan can be fully implemented.

The NPAs in the referenced MSAs have an expected life span of at least one year. For example, with regard to the NPAs in both the North Charleston – Charleston and Columbia MSAs have a least one year because current forecast indicated an exhaust of central office codes is expected during the second quarter of 2003.

The last criterion for obtaining pooling authority is that the MSAs in question be among the largest 100 in the United States. Both the North Charleston-Charleston and Columbia MSAs are among the nation's 100 largest MSAs.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT NUMBER CONSERVATION IF IT IS FOUND THAT SOUTH CAROLINA DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION

The Commission has also recognized that authority to implement number pooling measures may be granted upon showing of special circumstances. The PSCSC believes such circumstances exist.

In its *Numbering Resource Optimization, Second Report and Order* in Docket 99-200 at Paragraph 58, the Commission indicated that it was sensitive to states desires to minimize the consumer impact of area code relief by not implementing new area codes any sooner than

necessary. In South Carolina, with the proliferation of the number of competitive local exchange carriers and wireless carriers the demand for central office codes has increased significantly. As the demand for central office codes increase, clearly the need for the assignment of new NPAs will be required. As more NPAs are assigned consumer confusion will correspondingly increase. Under the proposal submitted on behalf of the Telecommunications Industry in South Carolina, consumer located in the 803 and 843 NPAs will be required at a minimum to dial ten digits to complete calls within those areas. If those consumers travel to the 864 area within South Carolina, then those consumers will be subject to a different dialing pattern. To minimize the impact on consumers, the PSCSC, as well as the Commission, has recognized the need to implement number conservation measures.

The PSCSC recognizes that numbering conservation is not a substitute for appropriate area code relief. However, the PSCSC is of the opinion that the immediate deployment of conservation measures will slow the demand for the implementation of new area codes and requests permission to implement Thousands Block Number Pooling in the North Charleston-Charleston and Columbia MSAs while the FCC finalizes the national number pooling provisions. Additionally, the SCPSC requests authority to require carriers to sequentially assign numbers to minimize thousand block contamination and requests authority to reclaim unused and minimally contaminated thousands blocks. If the Commission decides that consumer interest in South Carolina is not best served by the granting of this Petition, then the PSCSC requests that the 803 and 843 NPAs be included in the initial round of the deployment of national pooling.

CONCLUSION


The PSCSC supports the Commission's efforts to implement numbering resource optimization on a national level. Also, the Commission through its Numbering Resource Optimization, First Report and Order has allowed states to proceed with number conservation efforts through a demonstration it meets specific criteria or ,alternatively, special circumstances exist. The PSCSC is of the opinion that it has made such a demonstration through this petition for delegated authority. Additionally, the PSCSC recognizes that number conservation efforts are not a substitute for timely area code relief. However, the PSCSC believes that if the Commission grants this petition for authority to 1) implement

Thousand Block Number Pooling, based on national guidelines in the North Charleston – Charleston and Columbia MSAs, 2) order sequential number assignment to minimize thousand block contamination, 3) reclaim unused or minimally used thousands block numbers, and 4) continue rationing measures after the implementation of new areas codes, the interest of South Carolina citizens would be served.


Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

By its Executive Director and General
Counsel



Gary E. Walsh
Executive Director



F. David Butler
General Counsel
Public Service Commission of
South Carolina
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(803) 896-5117

April 20, 2001
Columbia, South Carolina

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA**

CC DOCKET NO. 99-200

IN THE MATTER OF:

Public Service Commission of South Carolina)
Petition for Delegation of Authority)
Pertaining to NXX Code Conservation Measures)
)
and)
)
Number Resource Optimization)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
(BY REGULAR U.S. MAIL)**

The undersigned does hereby certify that on the date indicated below she served the following named individual(s) with one (1) copy of the pleading(s) listed below by First Class Mail with sufficient postage attached and return address clearly marked.

PARTIES SERVED:

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Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, DC 20554

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, DC 20554

Harold Furchgott-Roth, Commissioner
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Gloria Tristani, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
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Lawrence E. Strickling, Chief
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International Transcription Service
445 12th Street, SW – Room CY-B402
Washington, DC 20036

**PLEADING(S): PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH
CAROLINA FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO
IMPLEMENT NUMBER CONSERVATION MEASURES
(Dated April 20, 2001)**

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
Public Service Commission of
South Carolina
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(803) 896-5117

By: 

Hope H. Adams

Columbia, South Carolina
April 20, 2001